Recek, Jason D.

From: Keith Baxter [kmb@boylefred.com]

EF 4/20/01

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To: Recek, Jason D.

Subject: Agenda for Interview on Case 09/964,916

let me know if drawings below are not visible

Agenda for Interview on Case 09/964,916
Scheduled for November 10, 2009
11:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time

Examiner: Jason Recek
Art Unit 2442
e-mail: Jason.Recek@uspto.gov

Thanks for helping me schedule an interview on this case for November 10, 2009. Please let me know if you need to reschedule.

In the interview, I would like to briefly discuss claim amendments for the §101 rejection and the newly cited art of Stevens.

§101

Here are proposed amendments to independent claims 18 and 22 to address the §101 rejections, but I am open to other or additional amendments in this respect.

18.   (Currently amended) A web access interface for implementation in an industrial control system having a plurality of control devices providing signals to or receiving signal from a controlled industrial process, wherein each of the control devices has a respective web server program, the web access interface comprising an electronic computer executing a stored program to implement:
a first ~~means for~~ interface receiving and transmitting Internet signals from and to the Internet;
a second ~~means for~~ interface receiving and transmitting control signals from and to the plurality of control devices the control signals including data provided to or received from the controlled industrial process for control of the industrial process; and
        a third ~~means for~~ interface communicating between the first and second interfaces and converting the Internet signals into the network signals, and for converting the network signals into the Internet signals, in order to allow for communication of signals between the plurality of control devices and at least one remote device coupled to the first means by way of the Internet,
        wherein the Internet signals are formatted and transmitted in accordance with an Internet transport layer protocol and an Internet network layer protocol and the network signals are not formatted or transmitted in accordance with any Internet transport layer protocol and an Internet network layer protocol but using instead protocols associated with the communication of control data in the industrial control system.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of communicating information on an electrical network

between a plurality of control devices each comprising electrical circuits communicating electrically with the network within an industrial control system and a remote device coupled to the industrial control system by way of the Internet, wherein each of the control devices has a respective web server program executing on a computer associated with the control device, the method comprising executing one or more programs on the control devices in order to implement the steps of:
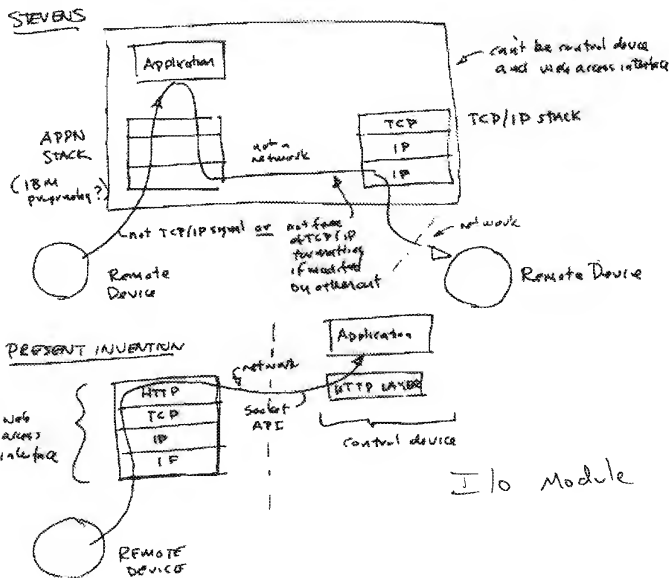
receiving a request signal at a web access interface, wherein the request signal has been provided over the Internet from the remote device;

processing an Internet media access control protocol and a TCP/IP protocol with respect to the request signal by way of an Internet communications program of the web access interface, in order to extract socket API data in the form of a socket API signal;

determining an appropriate destination control device from among the plurality of control devices;

formatting the socket API signal in accordance with a control network protocol and an internal media access control protocol to produce a network signal; and

delivering the network signal to the appropriate destination control device so that the socket API data can be processed by the respective web server program.

Stevens

I would also like to discuss briefly the new Stevens reference.

As depicted below, the Stevens device shows how a packet that is fully formatted using an APPN stack (apparently an IBM proprietary standard) can be passed to the lowest most layer of a separate TCP/IP stack for transmission to a remote device.

Admittedly, this signal of Stevens passed from the APPN stack to the TCP/IP stack is not encoded with TCP/IP because it uses a different IBM-based standard. But because this data is not

encoded with a TCP/IP stack, that would raise the reasonable assumption that it also does not contain socket API data (ftp or http data) associated with TCP/IP layers. The claim requires the transmission of socket API data without TCP/IP encoding.

For this reason, presumably the Examiner is proposing to modify Stevens in light of the other art to substitute a TCP/IP stack in for the APPN stack of Stevens. This would provide a system that shortcuts the full TCP/IP stack, something that is also done in the present invention. But if this substitution were performed, the data in Stevens passing from the leftmost stack to the rightmost stack would be fully encoded with TCP/IP counter to the express requirement of the claims of the present invention. In short, this modification produces a device that also does not meet the limitations of the claim.

Fundamentally, the approaches taken by Stevens and the present invention are in significant contrast. The shortcut path of Stevens is at a low level of the stack but in the present invention the shortcut is at a high level of the stack. The Stevens invention would not simplify the software held in the control device (the remote device attached to the adapter 210) because that remote device would have to have either a fully functional APPN stack or TCP/IP stack. Of course, the stacks in Stevens are not separated into two devices communicating via a network so additional modifications of Stevens would be required to meet the claim limitations.

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